

WALLOWA RANGER STATION, RESIDENCE (*Residence #1010*)
602 First Street
Wallowa
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-157-B

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WALLOWA RANGER STATION, Residence HABS No. OR-157-B
(Residence #1010)

Location: 602 First Street, Wallowa, Wallowa County, Oregon

Significance: The ranger's residence is significant individually due to its fine craftsmanship both inside and out. Exceptional features include; stone porch floor and chimney, rough chamfered posts, brackets, knotty pine paneling, stone fireplace, and iron light fixtures.

Description: The residence is rectangular in plan with an intersecting gable wing which projects to the north on the front elevation and a hip roof dormer on the rear (south) elevation. The one and one half story building has a medium pitched wood shingle gable roof, a brick exterior chimney on the west elevation and a poured concrete foundation. A cobble-stone interior chimney is off-set on the rear (south) elevation. Horizontal lap siding (1" x 12") covers the building and board and batten with undulating ends covers the gable ends.

Windows are six over six double-hung wood sash. At the second floor level, the windows are arranged in pairs. A multi-paned fixed window faces the porch in the projecting gable wing. The basement windows are set into concrete window wells which measure 2'6" deep and 4'6"x 3'8".

Recessed into the building volume, the large front porch occupies approximately half of the front elevation, east of the projecting gable wing. The porch roof is supported by heavy 8"x 8" squared timbers with curved brackets. The brackets are secured to the posts and notched beams with wooden pegs, two per bracket. Porch posts are arranged in twos and threes. The porch floor is a raised (17" from the ground) flagstone platform, the front steps are stone, and the porch foundation is granite. The porch ceiling is comprised of 5 1/2" wide wood planks. Two iron light fixtures are original. The single paneled front door retains its original hand forged iron hardware.

The rear entrance is off-set to the east and is covered by a shed roof which is an extension of the main gable. The porch roof is supported by wood brackets. An original iron light fixture is located next to the back door.

Interior: The first floor of the interior is comprised of a living room, dining room, kitchen, bath, bedroom, and front and back halls. The living and dining rooms are placed on the front of the house on an east west axis: the living room is to the west and the dining room is to the east. A small entrance hall separates the two rooms. At the back of the house is a back hall which leads to the bedroom at the west end, the bath and the stairs in the center, and the kitchen at the east end. Second floor rooms consist of two bedrooms, one bath, and a small hall with built-in closets; the bedrooms are on either end of the house and the bath is in the center on the rear elevation.

All wall surfaces are plaster and door and window trim is varnished fir. Floors are oak on the first floor and fir on the second floor. The most decorative rooms are the living and dining rooms. Significant detailing in the dining room include a varnished knotty pine ceiling comprised of planks laid on the diagonal, boxed beams and picture rail. The living room ceiling is plaster with varnished knotty pine boxed beams. Vertical knotty pine planks of varying widths cover the west wall. Also on the west wall is the fireplace. Constructed of river rock, the 6' 3" wide fireplace is the focal point of the room. A segmental arch is formed of river rock over the fireplace opening and the fir mantel is plain with a molded edge. The fireplace hearth is rock set in mortar. Below the window on the east wall is a built-in bookshelf. The kitchen has original pine cabinets and linoleum flooring. A stamp in a drawer in the kitchen reads "Manufactured by Rock Creek Camp, F. 63 (?) Civilian Conservation Corps, Columbia N.F. 1935."

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The first floor bedroom is similar to the second floor bedrooms; all have painted trim and fir floors. The bathroom has been remodeled. Stairs to the second floor have fir risers and oak treads. A window lights the stairwell at the second floor level and large built in storage closets are on the north side of the hall. The second floor bedrooms have large closets and built-in drawers with original metal drawer pulls. There are three built-in closets in the hall. The bath has been remodeled.

History: The residence, the most elaborately detailed of the five buildings, was designed by Howard Lane for the district ranger. Completed in 1939, the first ranger to occupy the building was Wade Hall. He was to remain as ranger until 1950 when he was promoted.

Sources. Throop, E. Gail, Historian, Recreation Unit, Regional Office USDA, Forest Service, Portland, Oregon. *Wallowa Ranger Station Evaluation Report*, January 8, 1982. Site Analysis by Sally Donovan and Kimberly Lakin, May 1991. Original blueprints from the files of Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor's Office Baker City, Oregon and Engineering Unit, Regional Office USDA Forest Service, Portland, Oregon.

Historian: Kimberly Lakin, June 1991.